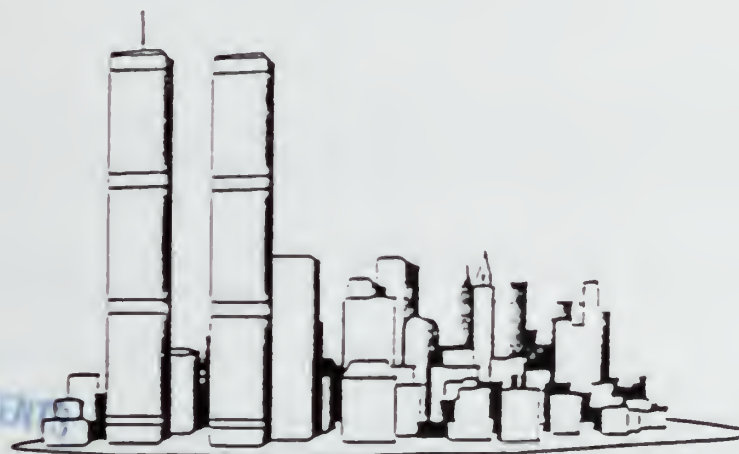


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INTRAVENOUS DRUG USER
ADMISSIONS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT IN FY '89



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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
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MAJOR FINDINGS

- Intravenous drug users (IVDUs) constituted 13% (N=13,031) of all admissions to publicly funded substance abuse treatment in FY '89.
- Three-quarters (9,483) were male and one-third (4,704) were people of color.
- Four-fifths (10,412) were not working.
- Two-thirds (8,061) did not have health insurance, and one-third (4,187) received public assistance.
- Four-fifths (10,429) used IV needles daily.
- Almost half (4,636) completed their treatment program.
- Methadone maintenance programs admitted the largest percent of employed Intravenous drug users (27%).
- Bridgewater admitted the largest percent of daily Intravenous needle users (96%).
- Intravenous drug users in methadone maintenance programs were 2 to 3 years older than IVDUs in other treatment modalities.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USER ADMISSIONS
TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT
FY '89

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Substance Abuse Services provides substance abuse treatment to intravenous drug users (IVDUs) in all modalities. Since FY '85 there has been an increase in the number of IVDUs entering treatment, with a 28% increase between FY '88 and FY '89 (Figure 1). These numbers reflect the Division's commitment to serving IVDUs through expansion of services, methadone maintenance slots, and expanded medicaid coverage. In this report, characteristics of IV drug users and non-IV drug users are compared, as well as treatment and discharge information. IVDUs are compared across five treatment modalities: detoxification, methadone, residential, outpatient, and Bridgewater. The data were gathered from the Division of Substance Abuse Services' MIS database, and are summarized in Tables one through four.

CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

In FY '89 13% (n=13,031) of all admissions to treatment were intravenous drug users (IVDUs), a 28% increase over FY '88 (n=12,000). Three-quarters (73%) of IVDUs were male, and half (53%) were between 30 and 39 years (mean age was 32 years) (Table 1). Two-thirds (64%) were white, 18% were black, 14% were



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Hispanic and 3% were Portuguese. Over half (55%) had never been married and 61% had children. Four out of five (80%) were not working (Figure 2) and two-fifths (41%) had an income under \$1000. One in ten IVDUs were homeless, and 62% did not have health insurance. One-third (32%) received public assistance.

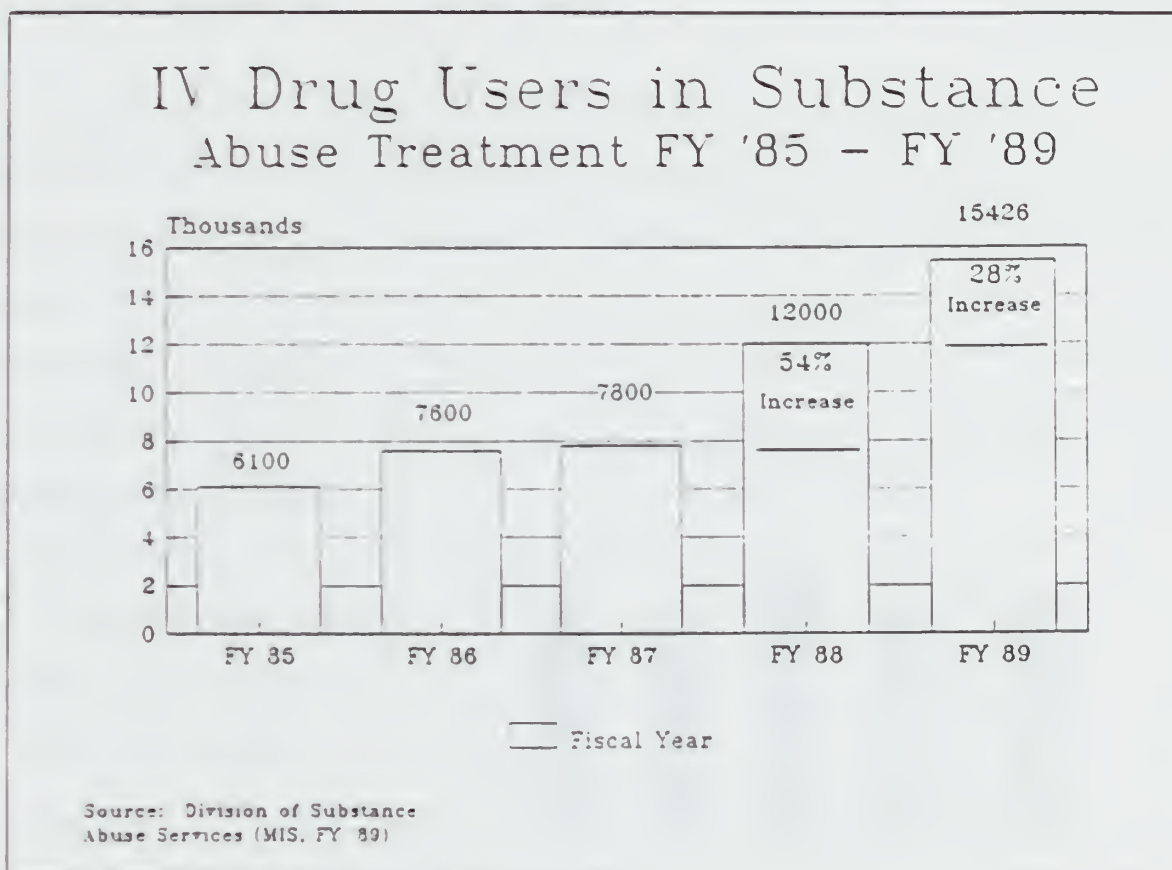


Figure 1 Trends IVDUs Admissions

In the month prior to admission, 60% used alcohol, 36% used heroin, 66% used cocaine and 27% used marijuana (Table 2). Four-fifths (80%) used IV needles daily, while one-tenth used needles weekly (11%) or monthly (9%). Half (51%) referred themselves for treatment. Forty-six percent of IVDUs completed treatment while

one-third dropped out. Two-fifths (41%) were referred for additional substance abuse treatment services at discharge.

COMPARISON OF INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS WITH NON-INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS

A comparison of IVDUs to non-IVDUs indicated a higher proportion of IVDUs were admitted to methadone (26% vs 1%), and Bridgewater (13% to 5%) treatment programs. Conversely, a higher proportion of non-IVDUs were admitted to drunk driving (25% vs 12%) and outpatient (25% vs 2%) programs than IVDUs. Proportionally more women were IVDUs (27%) than non-IVDUs (21%). Clients of color were more likely to be IVDUs than non-IVDUs (36% vs 20%) (Figure

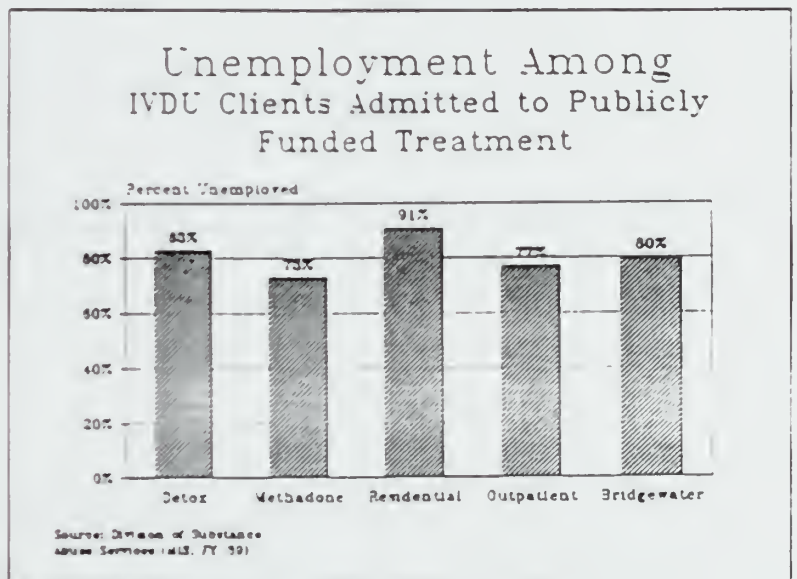
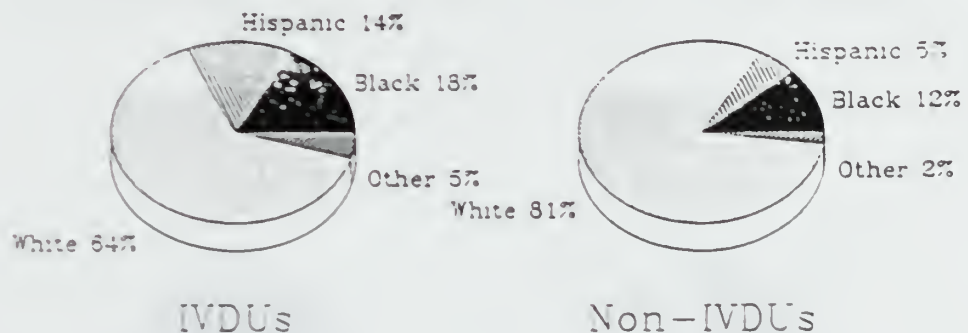


Figure 2 Unemployment Among IVDUs

3). The mean age (32 and 33) and mean number of school years (11 and 12) were similar for both IVDUs and non-IVDUs, respectively.

Racial/Ethnic Background of Clients Admitted to Substance Abuse Treatment in FY '89



Source: Division of Substance
Abuse Services (MIS, FY '89)

Figure 3 Racial/Ethnic Background of IVDUS and Non-IVDUS

IVDUs had a higher unemployment rate (80%) than non-IVDUs (56%) and were more likely to earn less than \$1000 per year (41% vs 26%). IVDUs were slightly less at risk to be homeless (10%) than non-IVDUs (13%). The percent of IVDUs with health insurance was lower (38%) than for non-IVDUs (49%). IVDUs were more likely to be receiving public assistance (32%) than non-IVDUs (22%).

IVDUs were far more likely to be self-referred to treatment (51%) than non-IVDUs (28%) (Figure 4). Conversely, non-IVDUs (35%) were more likely to be referred by the criminal justice system than IVDUs (12%).

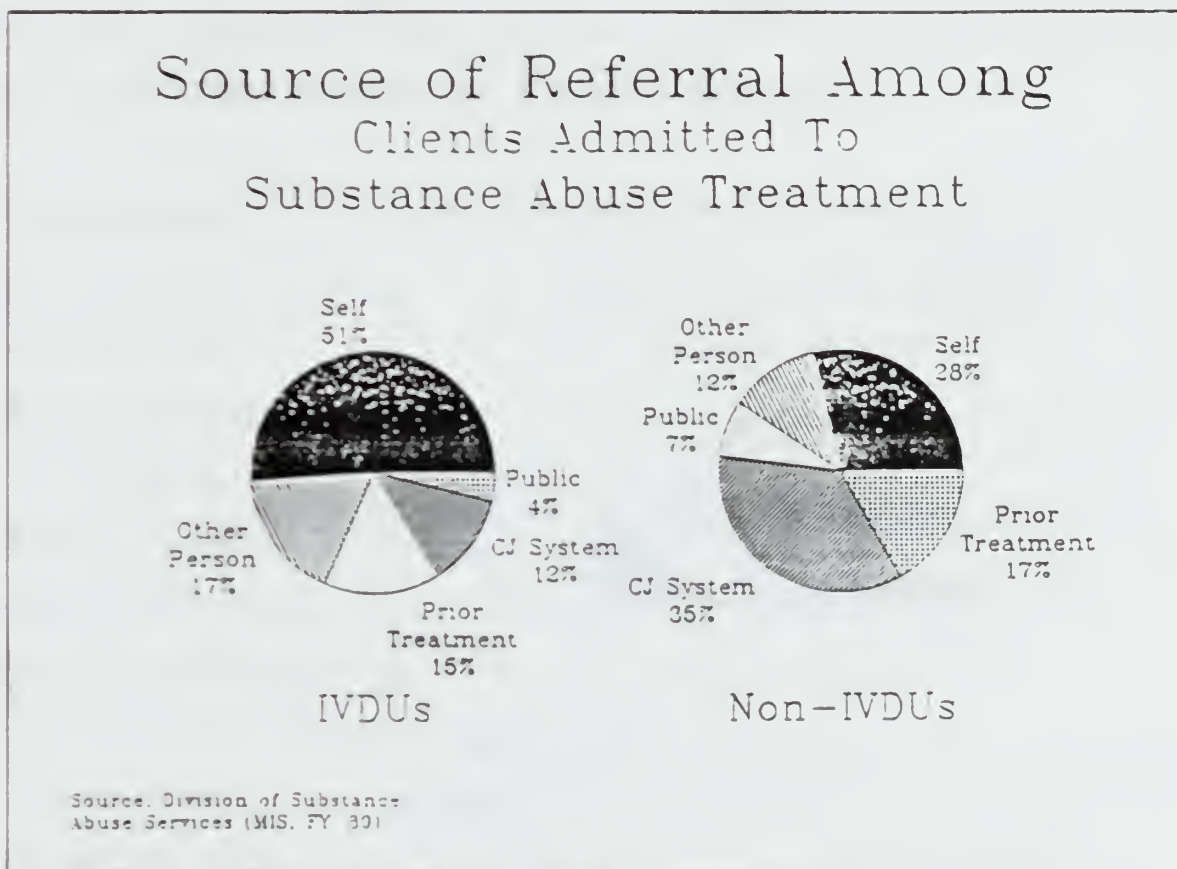


Figure 4 Source of Referral Among IVDUs and Non-IVDUs

Heroin (86%), cocaine (66%) and marijuana (26%) use were more prevalent among IVDUs, whereas, alcohol use (75%) was more prevalent among non-IVDUs (Figure 5).

COMPARISON OF INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS ACROSS MODALITIES

IVDUs in five major settings (detoxification, methadone, residential, outpatient and Bridgewater) accounted for 93% of all IVDUs in the substance abuse treatment system. The remaining 7% (n=871) of IVDUs were admitted to other modalities.

The highest percent of female IVDUs were admitted to methadone maintenance (39%) followed by residential (33%), and outpatient (30%) (Table 1), while the smallest percent of female IVDUs were admitted to detoxification (25%).

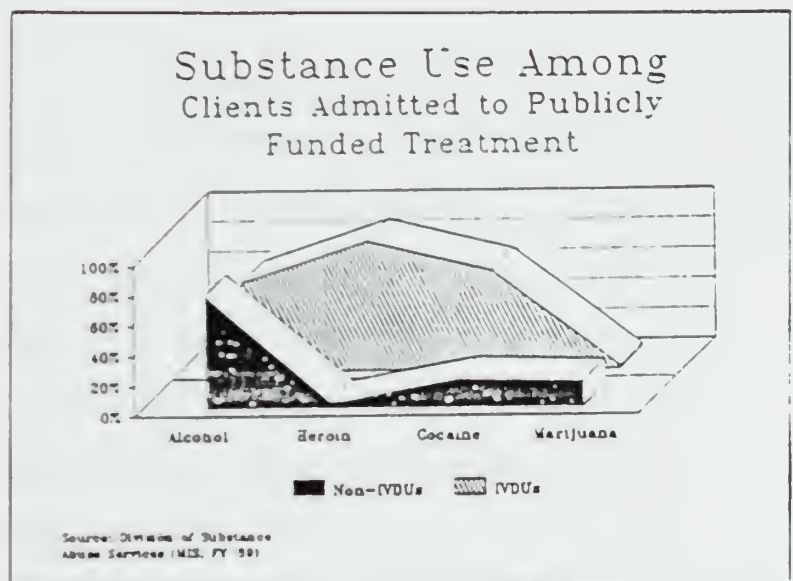


Figure 5 Substance Use Among IVDUs and Non-IVDUs

Clients of color accounted for almost one-third of residential (30%), methadone (31%) and detoxification (30%) admissions and half of outpatient (54%) and Bridgewater (49%) admissions. A greater proportion of black clients were admitted to Bridgewater (22%) and outpatient (27%) than methadone (14%) or detoxification (15%) programs. The greatest percent of Hispanic clients were admitted to outpatient (24%) and Bridgewater (19%).

Methadone clients were two to three years older (mean age of 34 years) than IVDUs in other treatment modalities, with the majority (60%) of clients 30 years or older. IVDUs in residential treatment were less likely to be married (10%) than IVDUs in methadone maintenance (20%). Over half of IVDUs in all modalities had children, especially those in methadone maintenance (63%).

The majority (over 70%) of IVDUs in all modalities were not working, although methadone maintenance (27%) and outpatient (23%) had the largest percentage of working clients. Bridgewater had the greatest proportion (17%) of homeless IVDUs. Health insurance coverage (includes both public and private) was reported by over half the IVDUs in methadone maintenance (55%) but only one-third or less reported insurance coverage in detoxification (32%) or Bridgewater (16%).

Detoxification programs had the largest percent of IVDUs (69%) who referred themselves for treatment, and outpatient programs had the largest percent of IVDUs who were referred by the criminal justice system. IVDUs admitted to methadone maintenance programs reported the highest proportion of heroin use in the month prior to admission (99%) and those admitted to detox, the lowest percent (78%) (Table 3). Bridgewater (96%) and Methadone programs (95%) had the highest percent of daily needle users (Figure 6). Referrals at discharge were made most often

for IVDUs in detoxification (51%) and outpatient (49%) treatment and least often for IVDUs at Bridgewater (19.5%).

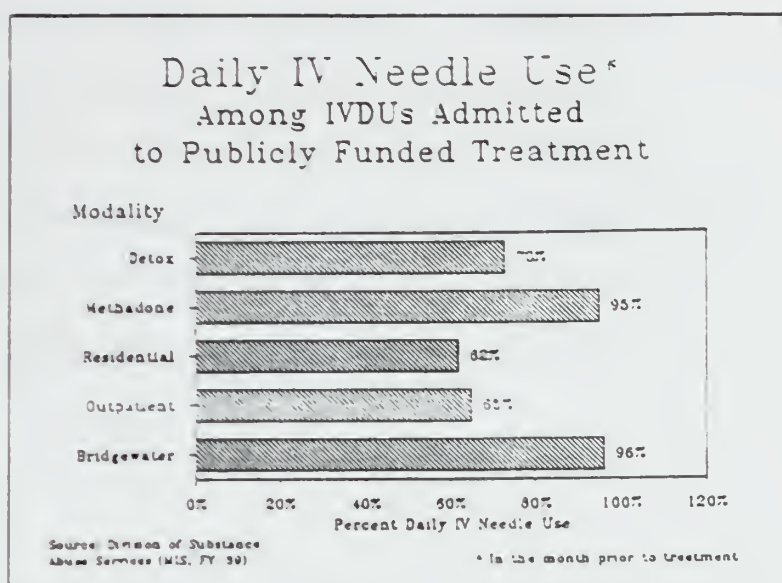


Figure 6 Daily IV Needle Use Among IVDUs

DISCUSSION

The number of intravenous drug users admitted to substance abuse treatment has increased 152% since 1985. Although many IVDUs are admitted to methadone programs, significant numbers of IVDUs are also admitted to detoxification, outpatient and Bridgewater programs as well. Large numbers of IVDUs are women and clients of color. Moreover, IVDUs appear to be poly-drug abusers. In the month prior to admission they abused not only heroin, but also cocaine and alcohol.

With more women and people of color seeking treatment, existing programs may need to be tailored to meet the unique requirements of these populations. The provision of childcare

and multi-lingual counselors may be as important to program completion as the method of treatment itself. Additionally, IVDUs are at great risk for HIV infection and AIDS. Programs should continue developing strategies and programming appropriate for clients with HIV infection or AIDS as well as provide prevention strategies for those at risk for HIV infection.

Table 1

Characteristics of IV and Non-IV Drug Users
In Substance Abuse Treatment for FY '89
(In Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug User (N=13,031)	Non-IV Drug User (N=84,659)
<u>Modality</u>		
Detox	33.2	30.7
TCF	1.6	1.3
Residential	9.4	6.6
Drunk Driving*	0.2	24.7
Methadone**	26.2	0.9
Outpatient	11.7	13.0
Bridgewater	12.9	5.4
Other	4.9	4.7
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	27.2	20.8
Male	72.8	79.2
<u>Race</u>		
Black	17.5	11.6
Hispanic	13.9	5.1
Portuguese	3.2	1.6
White	63.9	80.2
Other	1.5	1.5
<u>Age</u>		
< 19	0.7	6.2
19-29	36.9	39.0
30-39	52.8	30.8
40-49	8.7	14.4
50+	1.0	9.5
<u>Mean Age</u>	31.7	32.9
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.3	11.6
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	55.4	56.1
Married	14.4	15.6
Separated	11.1	7.3
Divorced	17.4	13.6
Widowed	1.7	2.0
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	60.7	48.2
No	39.3	51.8
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	20.1	44.1
Not Working	79.9	55.9

* Includes 1st and 2nd offenders.

** Includes non-contracted methadone.

Table 1
(continued)

Characteristics of IV and Non-IV Drug Users
In Substance Abuse Treatment for FY '89
(In Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug User (N=13,031)	Non-IV Drug User (N=34,659)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	40.5	26.4
\$ 1,000 - \$ 9,999	34.7	30.7
\$10,000 - \$19,999	16.2	23.9
\$20,000 - \$29,999	5.6	11.5
Over 300,000	2.9	7.4
<u>Homeless</u>		
House/Apt./Room	82.9	80.3
At Risk Homeless	6.8	7.6
Streets/Shelter	10.3	12.6
<u>Living Home Situation</u>		
Has child & lives with child	15.7	15.0
Has child but does not live w/child	45.3	33.5
No child but lives w/others	28.3	37.6
No child and lives alone	10.2	13.9
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	61.0	50.6
Yes	38.1	49.4
<u>Clients Receiving Public Assistance</u>	32.1	22.3

Table 2

Treatment Information on IV and Non-IV Drug Users
In Substance Abuse Treatment for FY '89
(In Percent)

	IV Drug User (N=13,031)	Non-IV Drug User (N=34,659)
<u>Source of Referral</u>		
Self	51.1	28.5
Other Individual	17.4	12.0
Treatment Programs	15.3	16.9
Criminal Justice System	12.4	35.2
Other Public Services/Shelter	3.3	7.5
<u>Alcohol Use^a</u>		
	59.1	74.3
<u>Heroin Use^a</u>		
	86.3	3.5
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use^a</u>		
	65.9	18.3
<u>Marijuana Use^a</u>		
	26.5	16.9
<u>IV Needle Use Frequency^a</u>		
Daily	80.1	0.0
Weekly	10.9	0.0
Monthly	9.1	0.0
<u>Discharge Status^b</u>		
Completed	45.9	62.3
Dropped Out	32.0	24.5
Noncompliance/Admin. Disch.	11.6	6.4
Assessment Only	5.3	3.9
Other	5.2	2.9
<u>Referral at Discharge^b</u>		
Referral not needed	13.2	24.1
Referral not wanted	46.3	39.5
Professional	1.3	1.0
Substance Abuse Treatment	36.6	31.3
Community Services	2.6	3.5

^a Substance use in the 30 days prior to admission.

^b Discharged as of 5/30/90.

Table 3

Characteristics of IV Drug Users by Modality for FY '89
(In Percent)

	Detox (N=4,324)	Methadone (N=3,403)	Residential (N=1,227)	Outpatient (N=1,526)	Bridgewater (N=1,573)
<u>Sex</u>					
Female	25.3	38.8	32.6	30.0	3.0
Male	74.7	61.2	64.4	70.0	100.0
<u>Race</u>					
Black	14.8	13.7	16.6	27.1	21.3
Hispanic	11.9	9.9	9.9	23.9	19.1
Portuguese	1.6	5.9	2.2	1.5	4.2
White	70.2	52.7	69.7	46.3	53.2
Other	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.7
<u>Age</u>					
< 19	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.0	0.6
19-29	39.6	29.0	41.8	39.8	37.8
30-39	50.7	59.4	49.9	50.3	50.6
40-49	8.2	10.1	6.7	8.1	9.7
50+	0.7	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.3
<u>Mean Age</u>	31.3	34.5	30.3	31.2	31.7
<u>Marital Status</u>					
Never Married	55.9	48.6	56.9	59.5	62.2
Married	11.3	19.5	10.9	15.2	12.5
Separated/Divorced	30.4	30.0	30.4	23.3	24.1
Widowed	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.1
<u>Education</u>					
< High School	36.7	35.4	31.3	43.4	41.4
High School Grad.	47.3	48.4	52.5	42.5	46.9
Post High School	15.9	16.3	15.7	14.1	11.7
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.4	11.3	11.5	11.0	11.1
<u>Employment</u>					
Working	17.4	27.2	8.7	22.9	20.5
Not Working	82.6	72.8	91.3	77.1	79.5
<u>Children</u>					
Yes	58.4	65.4	59.9	60.7	55.3
No	41.6	34.6	40.1	39.3	44.7
<u>Annual Income</u>					
Less than \$1,000	41.8	23.2	42.5	41.7	64.3
\$ 1,000 - \$ 9,999	36.9	43.3	33.0	37.2	16.2
\$10,000 - \$19,999	12.4	24.6	16.2	15.3	10.8
\$20,000 - \$29,999	5.4	6.4	5.4	4.3	5.3
Over \$30,000	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.5	3.4

Table 3
(continued)

Characteristics of IV Drug Users by Modality for FY '89
(In Percent)

	Detox (N=4,324)	Methadone (N=3,408)	Residential (N=1,227)	Outpatient (N=1,526)	Bridgewater (N=1,675)
<u>Homeless</u>					
House or Apt.	78.6	92.8	79.7	87.7	78.7
At Risk Homeless	6.5	3.9	9.3	6.3	4.3
Homeless	14.9	3.4	11.0	6.0	17.1
<u>Living Situation</u>					
Has child and lives w/child	11.6	25.5	12.6	17.2	9.3
Has child but does not live w/child	46.9	40.3	47.4	44.0	46.7
No child but lives w/others	28.4	27.8	28.8	31.5	31.4
No child and lives alone	12.9	6.4	11.3	7.4	12.6
<u>Health Insurance</u>					
No	67.4	45.1	54.4	57.5	93.6
Yes	32.6	54.9	45.6	42.5	16.4
<u>Clients Receiving Public Assistance</u>					
No	72.4	45.4	58.8	67.6	83.2
Yes	27.6	54.6	41.2	32.4	16.8

Table 4

Treatment Information for IV Drug Users by Modality for FY '89
(In Percent)

	Detox (N=4,324)	Methadone (N=3,408)	Residential (N=1,227)	Outpatient (N=1,526)	Bridgewater (N=1,675)
<u>Source of Referral</u>					
Self	69.0	60.7	11.5	29.3	48.4
Other Individual	11.8	28.0	14.3	14.7	17.9
Treatment Programs	11.9	8.8	56.2	15.2	1.4
Criminal Justice System	2.8	0.9	12.2	34.7	29.1
Other Public Services/ Shelter	4.6	1.6	5.9	6.0	3.2
<u>Alcohol Use^a</u>	72.6	45.6	75.8	51.9	44.7
<u>Heroin Use^a</u>	78.1	99.4	79.0	83.8	92.6
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use^a</u>	73.8	48.8	81.4	67.1	60.9
<u>Marijuana Use^a</u>	27.2	24.2	40.4	28.2	14.8
<u>Amphetamine Use^a</u>	1.8	0.7	6.9	1.8	0.5
<u>IV Needle Use Frequency^a</u>					
Daily	72.9	95.3	61.9	64.6	96.2
Weekly	14.9	2.7	18.9	18.5	2.9
Monthly	12.2	2.0	19.2	16.9	1.7
<u>Discharge Status^b</u>					
Completed	55.2	14.9	36.9	9.2	85.8
Dropped out	37.8	41.3	33.9	37.8	4.9
Noncompliance/ Admin. Discharge	5.4	27.7	15.4	6.2	9.0
Assessment only	0.6	4.0	1.1	38.0	0.1
Other	1.0	12.1	12.7	8.8	0.2
<u>Referral at Discharge^b</u>					
Referral not needed	9.1	25.6	12.6	13.1	3.6
Referral not wanted	40.1	48.6	41.4	37.8	76.9
Professional	1.3	1.6	3.1	0.5	0.1
Substance Abuse Treatment	45.9	22.4	41.0	45.8	17.9
Community Services	3.7	1.8	1.9	2.8	1.5

^a Substance use in the 30 days prior to admission.

^b Discharged as of May 30, 1990.

